

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Replace the claims with the following rewritten listing:

1. (Currently Amended) A fire-stop device for protecting walls or structures or for producing a protective chamber, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ing an insulating composition suitable for covering the structure to be protected, or for surrounding the protective chamber covered by a surface coating comprising a mixture of potassium and lithium silicates and fine aluminum particles.
2. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the aluminum particles have the shape of lamellae.
3. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the aluminum lamellae have a thickness of about  $0.2 \mu\text{m}$  and an average size (length and width) of between 10 and  $15 \mu\text{m}$ , and preferably  $13 \mu\text{m}$ .
4. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 3, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the surface coating comprises about 15 to 20% by weight of aluminum particles, related to the weight of potassium silicate.
5. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the surface coating comprises a suspending agent for ensuring the stability of the solution while it is being sprayed onto the insulating composition.
6. The fire-stop device as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 5, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the coating layer thickness is 1 mm or less.
7. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 6, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the insulating composition comprises the following elements: gray cement, chalk, silica, hollow insulating materials and wet-strength agent.

8. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that~~wherein the insulating composition comprises a hydraulic binder comprising the following elements: aluminosulfate clinker, crushed gypsum, lithium carbonate, borax or trisodium citrate.

9. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the hydraulic binder has the following composition:

- aluminosulfate clinker:	75%
- crushed gypsum:	25%
- lithium carbonate:	0.5 to 1%
- borax or trisodium citrate:	2 to 5%

10. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 6 and 8 and 9, characterized in that~~wherein the insulating composition comprises, on the one hand, a substantially equal parts mixture of gray cement and hydraulic binder comprising the following elements:

aluminosulfate clinker, crushed gypsum, lithium carbonate, borax or trisodium citrate and, on the other, the following elements: chalk, silica, hollow insulating materials and wet-strength agent.

11. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 6 and 8 and 9, characterized in that~~wherein the insulating composition comprises the following elements:

aluminosulfate clinker, crushed gypsum, lithium carbonate, borax, chalk, silica, hollow insulating materials and wet-strength agent.

12. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in ~~one of claims 7 to 11, characterized in that~~wherein the insulating composition contains at least one flow and adhesion promoter.

13. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in ~~one of claims 7 to 12~~, characterized in thatwherein the insulating composition contains hollow insulating materials consistingcomprising of a mixture of glass microspheres (noblite) about 50 to 60  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter and expanded fired silica spheres (perlite) about 500 to 600  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter.

14. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in ~~one of claims 7 to 13~~, characterized in thatwherein the insulating composition contains an element that improves its intrinsic strength and moistureproofing agent, consistingcomprising of a silicate fixed to a porous filler.

15. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in thatwherein the flow and adhesion promoter consistscomprises of cellulose ether.

16. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in claims ~~7 to 15~~, characterized in thatwherein the insulating composition has the following weight composition per 988 parts:

-	gray cement and/or hydraulic binder	450
-	chalk	50
-	silica	350
-	hollow materials	80
-	expanded fired silica	30
-	silicate	25
-	cellulose ether	3

17. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in ~~one of claims 7 to 16~~, characterized in thatwherein the insulating composition is used as a coating with a thickness of between about 1.5 cm for a steel structure and 5 cm for a concrete structure.

18. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in claims 1 and 11, characterized in that wherein it is formed from elements molded using the insulating composition of claim 11 comprising: aluminosulfate clinker, crushed gypsum, lithium carbonate, borax, chalk, silica, hollow insulating materials and wet-strength agent.

19. (Currently Amended) The fire-stop device as claimed in claim 18, characterized in that wherein the molded elements ~~consist of~~ comprise sections of chutes (3) and sections of lids (4) of which the ends have complementary interlocking profiles (5, 6) for producing a continuous channel (2) with a constant wall thickness.